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## What is claimed is:

- 1. In a data-over-cable system, a method for establishing communications between a network client device and a network device; the method comprising:
  - a) dividing a dynamic range of the network client device into a plurality of

5 regions;

- b) initiating at least one initial ranging in at least one of the regions using a certain power level;
- c) determining if a range response message is received from the network device;
- d) adjusting the power level and reinitiating step b) and c) till a range response message is received.
  - 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network client device is a cable modem.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the network device is a cable modem termination system.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of dividing the dynamic range of the network client device includes dividing the dynamic range of a transmitter of the network client device by the dynamic range of a receiver of the network device.

- 5. A computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for causing a processing unit to execute the steps of the method of claim 1.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of initiating at least one initial ranging includes sending a range request message.